

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 27 DEC 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The principal discussion at the meeting of the SED Central Committee in mid-October 1951 concerned the reasons why the SED had made less headway and has had less organizational influence in the territory adjacent to West Berlin, i.e., in East Berlin and Land Brandenburg, than in any other section of the DDR. Both Willi Sägebrecht and Kurt Hager were of the opinion that the relatively greater concentration of objectives of the Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung in Land Brandenburg than anywhere else in the DDR is a factor which hinders rather than furthers SED success in that area. It was pointed out that Land Brandenburg's paramount task lies in surrounding that part of Germany supported and propagandized as the show window of the Western world. Until now this task has been interpreted as one of external strength. Land Brandenburg has been required to provide a strong and impenetrable belt of power. For this reason, primary importance has been placed on continuous indoctrination of NVA units, with the consequence that the political training of the population, including that of Party and labor union members, has been neglected.

2. According to various statements made by Hermann Matern, Hager, and Sägebrecht, the results of the ideological training program of the past Party School Year were far below average in Land Brandenburg. Furthermore, it was pointed out that participation in the Party training program was at the lowest level in those towns and communities in which direct access is had to West Berlin, and that the Party authorities had made no attempt to alter this situation.

3. At this meeting Walter Ulbricht also spoke at some length on the influence of West Berlin. He remarked that the unsatisfactory results of the SED training courses, as pertinent for East Berlin as for Land Brandenburg, reflect the need of the Party for a certain distance from the Western world and its temptations in order to assure the proper indoctrination of the people with SED patterns of thought. He added that this fact makes it even more necessary to change the present condition radically, since it is possible that East and West Germany may endure in their present form for a long time yet, providing a continual standard of comparison. According to Ulbricht, this problem demands that all possible measures be taken to create model examples of SED activism in those parts of Germany in direct geographical contact with the West.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- h. SED organizations in Berlin and Land Brandenburg were assigned the task of drawing up an immediate program of action with one propaganda goal: "the East is better than the West".

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